

50th Anniversary of the Korean War

About the flag

The flag is symbolic of the unified effort of the United States, the Republic of Korea, and our allies to stop Communist aggression on the Korean Peninsula 50 years ago. The light blue and white streamer that runs through the center of the flag is the U.N. Battle Streamer. The 22 stars represent the 22 allied nations that fought side-by-side to save South Korea. The words "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE" were added by our veterans who, more than anyone else, know the great price of liberty. The flag is in both the English and Korean (Hangul) languages. In the center is the Taeguk symbol from the South Korean flag, familiar to many as the symbol for the philosophy of Yin and Yang. In Korea, known as Eum and Yang, the symbol stands for peace and harmony. South Korea has adopted this as their official Commemorative Flag.

About the logo

The focal point of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War commemorative Crest is the three-lobed Taeguk, known as the sam-Taeguk. The three lobes of the sam-Taeguk are as follows:

- Red and White stripes representing the United States.
- Dark Blue representing South Korea.
- The United Nations Light Blue with 22 Gold stars representing the 20 U.N. countries involved in the Korean War, plus non-U.N. member—Italy—and the Republic of Korea.
- Traditionally, the Taeguk depicted on the flag of the Republic of Korea represents two states of being, Heaven and Earth (spiritual and physical).
- The sam-Taeguk stands for three states of being: Heaven, Earth and Man. Heaven represents the spiritual, Earth is the physical and Man is the intermediary who embodies both the spiritual and physical.
- The wreath and lettering in gold symbolize honor and excellence.

During the commemorative period, the nation will honor the Korean War veterans for the sacrifices they made to ensure a free and democratic South Korea.

50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee

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Turning Points in American History The Korean War, 1950-1953

Lesson Overview

In the years following World War II the traditional world order underwent fundamental changes. International peacetime alliances among countries realigned themselves along Cold War boundaries—Democratic nations against Communist regimes—and former colonies gained independence. The United States abandoned its traditional isolationist policies and helped rebuild a war-torn world. The United Nations (U.N.), an organization of sovereign nations, was established in the aftermath of the devastating war to help stabilize international relations and to help find solutions to international problems or disputes.

It was during this period that the seeds of the Korean War were sown. In the closing stages of World War II, the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union led to the division of the Korean Peninsula at the 38° Parallel, the Soviet Union occupying the area north of the 38° Parallel and the United States that to the south. What was originally created as a temporary expedient became a line of political confrontation establishing North Korea as a Soviet satellite state and aligning South Korea with America. In June 1950, North Korea attempted to reunify the country through military means. To repel that unprovoked aggression, the U.N. comprised of a collective force of 22 nations, quickly took steps to maintain an independent South Korea. After three years of destructive warfare an armistice was reached in July 1953 between the U.N. Command and the North Korean and Chinese Communist forces. However, no permanent peace agreement has ever been reached and the Korean Peninsula remains divided along a four-kilometer-wide and 249.4-kilometer-long Demilitarized Zone.

Because the Korean War occurred in a period of unprecedented international and domestic change, the policies and practices established during the war served as turning points in American history. The following curriculum guide provides examples of such key events and the means by which to learn more about them.

Important Issues of the Korean War Era

The Korean War as a Turning Point in American Cold War Policy

- Identify these major ideas, events, and people relating to the beginning of the Cold War. What is the significance of each?
 - Yalta
 - Potsdam
 - Marshall Plan
 - National Security Act of 1947
 - NSC-68
 - Stalin/Truman relationship
 - George Kennan
 - Containment
 - Truman Doctrine
 - Iron Curtain
 - Democracy versus Communism (political systems)
 - Capitalism versus Socialism (economic systems)
 - Military Industrial Complex

- How did the Korean War help establish Cold War thoughts and ideas in American foreign policy?

- Discuss examples of the extension of these concepts in the 1960s and 1970s.



Nations Involved in the Korean War

Three national flags have changed since the Korean War:
United States, Canada, South Africa

United Nations Participants in the Korean War

Match the 1950's Era Flag to the Country

Country	Flag	Country	Flag	Country	Flag
1. Australia	A.	4. Colombia	N.	7. France	T.
2. Belgium	B.	5. Denmark	O.	8. Great Britain	S.
3. Canada	C.	6. Ethiopia	P.	9. Greece	U.
				10. India	V.
				11. Italy	
				12. Luxembourg	
				13. Netherlands	
				14. New Zealand	
				15. Norway	
				16. Philippines	
				17. South Africa	
				18. South Korea	
				19. Sweden	
				20. Thailand	
				21. Turkey	
				22. United States	

Korean War Reference Map



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This is a small sampling of books available on the subject of the Korean War 1950-1953. Check your local library for additional books, periodicals and articles.